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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 09423.0017-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Michael S.H. CHU et al.) Group-Art Unit: 3731
Application No.: 10/017,012) Examiner: M.H. Thaler
Filed: December 14, 2001)
For: METHODS AND APPARATUS) Confirmation No.: 7794
FOR GUIDING A NEEDLE)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In an Office Action dated April 30, 2004, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between Group I, claims 1-15, drawn to a needle guiding apparatus, and Group II, claims 16-19, drawn to a method of guiding a needle to a target.

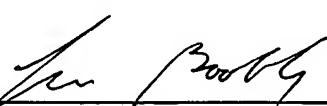
Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Group I, claims 1-15, drawn to a needle guiding apparatus.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: May 27, 2004

By: 
Leslie I. Bookoff
Reg. No. 38,084